



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 23

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 28, 1955

Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

SAFETY BELTS FOR CARS

The Illinois legislature is considering a bill which would require seats in all of that state's cars to be equipped with safety belts, similar to those used in airplanes, to lessen the danger of injury or death in traffic accidents. The governor of Illinois, William Stratton, already has had belts installed in his official car.

INDIA GETS ATOMIC AID

The United States is selling India a large quantity of "heavy water," an atomic material. The action is in line with President Eisenhower's plan to help other nations develop peaceful uses for atomic energy.

CHAMPION CONSUMER

The Atomic Energy Commission is now the biggest single user of electric power in the United States. The commission's various plants in 1954 required more electric power than did General Motors or Ford, previous champion consumers.

CHILE BUILDS SCHOOLS

Chile is starting a \$330,000,000 program to build new schools and improve its educational system in an effort to combat juvenile delinquency and to reduce illiteracy. Chile, which has a population of around 6 million, estimates that 320,000 of its school-age children did not go to any educational institution last year.

MR. ATTORNEY STEVENSON

Former Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson returned to the practice of law after his defeat as Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1952. He recently obtained authorization to appear before the nation's Supreme Court as attorney for clients he may represent from time to time.

CALIFORNIA WAR GAMES

The Army and Navy will carry out realistic war games along the California coast next month. A mock invasion of San Simeon Bay and defense exercises in San Diego harbor are part of the program. The games will give some idea of what might be expected during a real attack in time of war.

NEW BRAZILIAN PRODUCT

Because coffee sales aren't earning enough dollars to pay for needed U. S. goods, Brazil is trying to develop a market for burlap (used in making sacks). Brazil has developed the production of burlap, which is made from jute, only in the past 10 years. In her export trade, she will be competing with India, Pakistan, and other Asian nations which have raised jute for many years.

TEN MILLION BOOKS

The Library of Congress received its 10 millionth book recently! The Library also has some 2,308,000 maps, and 2,238,000 photographs.



A CHINESE RED SOLDIER. His army is second largest in the world today, but it lacks much in the way of modern equipment.

Will Red China Risk War with U. S. over Formosa?

Peiping's Leaders Talk in Tough Manner, but Their Land's Economy Could Hardly Support Long Conflict

DURING recent weeks, Red China has been acting in a more warlike manner than ever. Her leaders insist in violent language that they will seize Formosa, the Far Pacific island which the United States is pledged to defend.

The hostile talk of the Chinese communists raises these questions: Will Red China actually wage war on us to achieve her demands? Or is she trying to bluff us into giving her what she wants?

Many observers who have closely followed developments in the Far East do not think that China will actually risk war with us at this time. They say:

"To wage war, a country must have a strong economy. It must have many factories to turn out war materials. A well developed transportation system is necessary. A nation at war needs big stores of mineral wealth, readily available. In all these re-

spects, China is deficient, and is far behind the United States.

"For example, we have nearly 100 times as much money invested in factories and industries as Red China has. Every year we are turning out more than 100 times as much steel and more than 700 times as much oil. We have more than 65 times the electric power that communist China possesses.

"China's transportation system is backward. We have almost 30 times as many highways as Red China and 15 times as many miles of railway track. For each motor vehicle that the Chinese own, we have more than 1,000.

"China is known as a farm country and is much larger in area than the United States. Even so, she has 25 per cent less cropland than we do. On this soil she must raise food enough to feed more than 570 million

(Continued on page 6)

Our Nation-Wide Highway Problem

Federal, State, and Local Officials Seeking Cure for U. S. Traffic Jams

Nearly everyone who uses an automobile is aware of the ever-growing traffic problem that plagues America. Not only do crowded highways and jammed streets waste our time and fray our nerves, but they also add a great deal to the expense of operating a car or truck, and they produce many accidents.

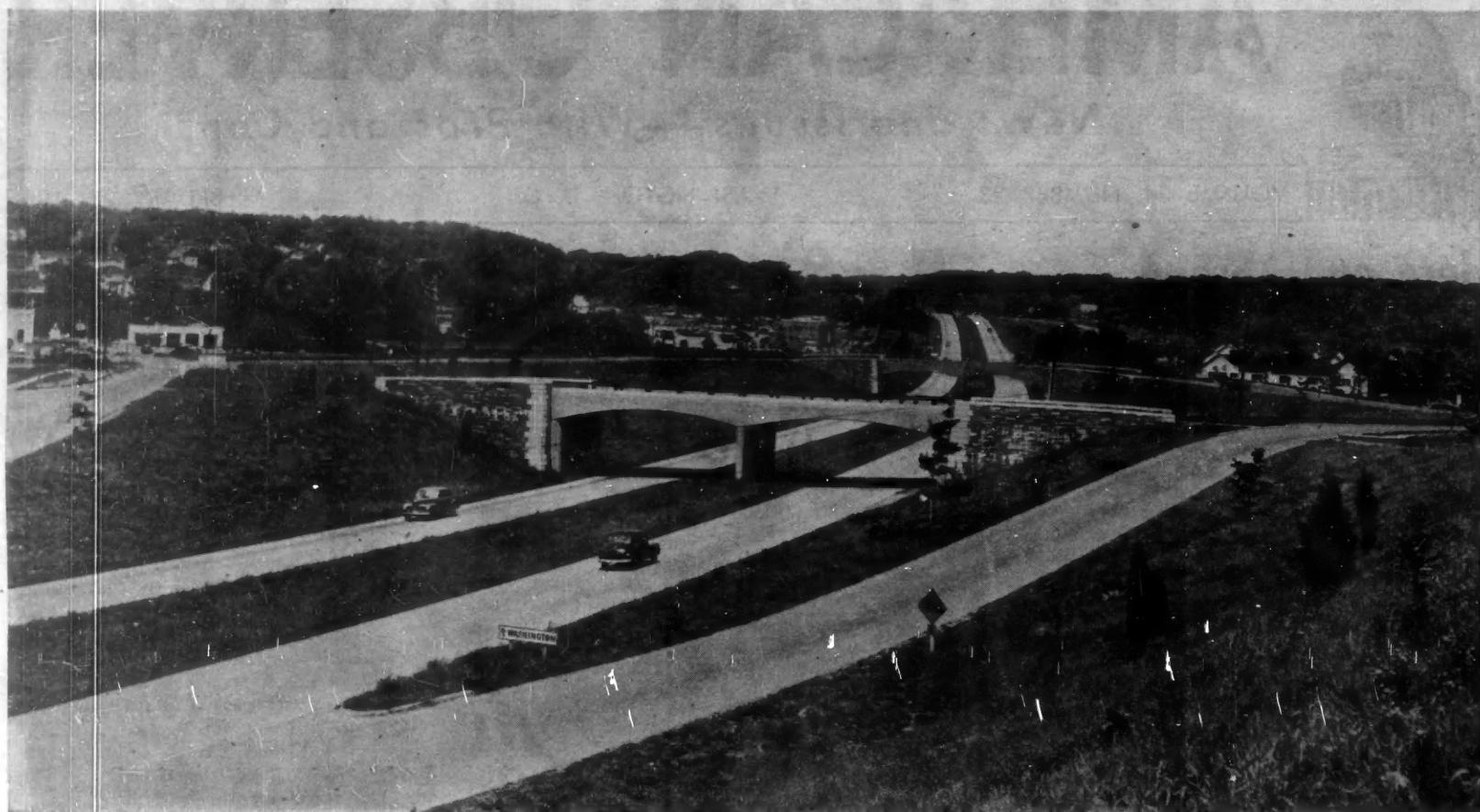
Government officials—at national, state, and local levels—have been devoting much time and thought to the question of what should be done about America's nation-wide traffic snarl. Last year President Eisenhower set up a special advisory committee to study the problem. Chairman of the group is General Lucius Clay, who has handled a number of important engineering jobs for the Army, and who achieved prominence as head of the U. S. occupation forces in Germany shortly after World War II.

General Clay's committee issued a report last month, urging a vast program of street and highway construction. President Eisenhower has been planning to send Congress a special highway message, based to a considerable extent on that report. He may have done so by the time this paper reaches its readers.

In discussing the great need for highway improvement, General Clay's group says: "The motor vehicle has [become a] seemingly indispensable part of our daily life. The breadwinner uses an automobile to get to work; the housewife to shop; children ride in a car or bus to school; and the entire family relies on the automobile for many social and recreational activities. Privately owned passenger cars now in service could transport the entire population of the nation at one time—with seats to spare."

Getting down to specific figures, the committee points out that Americans are now using approximately 48 million passenger cars, 10 million trucks, and a quarter of a million buses—a total of more than 58 million vehicles. These machines travel on 3 1/3 million miles of public roads and streets—the world's largest highway network. The United States has approximately a third of all the roads on earth—and nearly three fourths of all the passenger cars.

American industries connected with highway transportation provide jobs for about 10 million workers, or more than a seventh of our entire labor force. Companies that manufacture and sell automobiles and auto repairs are included among these industries, of course. So are the gasoline and oil corporations, bus and truck lines, (Concluded on page 2)



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

VIRGINIA'S SHIRLEY HIGHWAY leading into the nation's capital. There will be a nation-wide system of fine highways similar to this one, if Congress approves recommendations made by Lucius D. Clay, retired general, and his committee of special advisers.

Highway Problem

(Concluded from page 1)

highway construction firms, and many others.

The number of motor vehicles on America's streets and highways has grown with amazing speed during the last few years. The upward climb, unless stopped by depression or war, is practically certain to continue. We had about 31 million vehicles in 1945, compared to our present 58 million, and it is estimated that we shall have more than 80 million by 1965.

Unfortunately, streets and highways in and around the big cities are already clogged. Practically everyone agrees that "something should be done" to remedy this situation but there is no such widespread agreement on the kind of remedy that should be adopted. General Clay recommends a 10-year construction program, costing more than 100 billion dollars, and involving close cooperation among federal, state, and local governments. Much controversy has arisen over the merits of such a plan.

Further along in this article we shall examine the details of Clay's program, along with some of the major arguments for and against it. First, though, let's take a close look at America's present network of streets and highways.

As was noted earlier, the United States has about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million miles of roads and streets. Dirt roads account for approximately 38 per cent of this total. An additional 36 per cent have been surfaced with such materials as gravel, sand, or crushed stone. About 25 per cent of our streets and highways are paved, though in many cases the paving is narrow and battered.

State and local governments carry most of the responsibility for the building and upkeep of our highway system. The federal government doesn't actually control any roads except in such areas as the national

forests. Uncle Sam does give the states a great deal of money, however, to help support their highway programs. Congress lately has been providing about half a billion dollars a year for this purpose.

Though the states handle the actual spending of the money, they must meet certain definite conditions in order to receive it. Their construction plans, on highways built with federal aid, have to be approved by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. Also, state governments are required to match—out of their own treasuries—the federal funds which they receive.

Route Markers

About 145,000 miles of principal streets and highways are marked with U. S. shields, which carry route numbers. In this group are such well-known roads as U. S. 1, which runs from Maine to Florida; U. S. 40, a coast-to-coast route; and U. S. 66, between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Highways marked with the U. S. shield are among those which the federal government helps the states to construct, but they are not the only ones. Federal funds are also used for a number of other routes, usually marked with state emblems.

The program recommended to President Eisenhower by General Clay's advisory committee would continue the idea of cooperation between Washington and the various states. The total cost of this program, over a period of 10 years, would be an estimated 101 billion dollars. The federal government would carry about 30 per cent of this amount, while state and local governments would carry 70 per cent. Over the next 10 years, if the Clay proposals are put into effect, our country as a whole will spend money on highway construction at more than double its present rate.

Most of the federal government's outlay of money, under the suggested program, would be concentrated on a special nation-wide network of

major routes totaling about 40,000 miles. Nearly 38,000 miles of present-day roads and streets are already earmarked as part of this network, known as the "Interstate System."

These highways are among the nation's major arteries of travel, and they now carry about 15 per cent of all our traffic—even though they make up scarcely more than 1 per cent of our street and highway mileage. Many of them today are wholly inadequate for the heavy traffic loads which they must handle. Many are too narrow and crowded, and are lined with dangerous intersections. There is an almost desperate need for such roads to be rebuilt and enlarged.

At the end of the proposed 10-year construction period, if ideas of the Clay committee are carried out, this Interstate System will be thoroughly modern. There will be four-lane highways along nearly four fifths of its entire length. Many intersections will be of the clover-leaf type. Expressways and by-passes will help carry traffic through or around the cities.

Actual construction of the modernized 40,000-mile road system would be handled by the states, even though financed almost entirely by Uncle Sam. Meanwhile, states and local governments would be expected to carry out large-scale improvement projects on many other important streets and highways. They would have to finance most of this work themselves, even though the federal government would pay about half a billion dollars on it each year.

As noted earlier, the Clay committee's recommendations have aroused much controversy. Though practically everyone agrees that we need a remedy for our "nation-wide traffic jam," many people think the committee's proposals go too far. Some observers argue as follows:

"This is no time for our nation to double its spending on highway repair and construction. We shouldn't make such a heavy addition to governmental costs during a period when defense

requirements already force us to spend at a tremendous rate.

"If the national, state, or local governments are to assume great new financial burdens, there are various projects even more desperately needed than highway improvement. One, for instance, is a bigger and better school system."

Other critics feel that the Clay committee's recommendations would give the federal government too great a share in the proposed highway program. They argue: "What the federal government should do is to economize and cut its taxes. Then state levies could be boosted without any addition to the citizens' total tax load. Thus the states could obtain money for an expanded highway-building program, without having to be so dependent on Washington for aid."

Observers who agree with General Clay's committee, on the other hand, reply as follows:

"The suggested highway program does not involve too much federal control. Most of the responsibility for carrying it out would be left to state and local governments."

To Serve the Nation

"But some degree of federal help is essential, not only in financing an expanded highway program, but also in planning it. Our system of roads and streets must be coordinated to serve the nation as a whole. Therefore, the national government should have considerable voice in any project to rebuild and improve this network."

"Our country must get busy, without further delay, in building adequate streets and highways for its heavy traffic. In peacetime, good roads will help our people save a great deal of time and many lives. In case of war, such routes would be needed for the transportation of supplies, and perhaps for the rapid evacuation of our big cities."

These are some of the conflicting opinions in the current dispute over highway plans.

Your Vocabulary

In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. A *quorum* (kwō'rūm), politically speaking, is (a) the number of legislators who must be present at voting time (b) a party quarrel (c) a party meeting (d) a lengthy debate.

2. The senator *disavowed* (dis-āvōd') plans for a filibuster. (a) announced (b) condemned (c) denied that he had (d) claimed ignorance of.

3. The *plaintiff* (plāntif') in a trial is (a) the judge (b) the leading witness (c) the accuser (d) the accused.

4. The governor is noted for his *acumen* (ākū'mēn) in political affairs. (a) shrewd judgment (b) influence (c) good sportsmanship (d) honesty.

5. The President's *unequivocal* (ün-é-kwiv'ō-call) statement (a) was not likely to provoke war (b) was risky (c) took courage (d) left no doubt as to its meaning.

6. When you say that SEATO is the *counterpart* (kown'ter-part) of NATO you mean that (a) it is very different from NATO (b) it is very similar (c) it is part of the same plan (d) it was formed by the same nations.

7. The official used *cryptic* (krip'tik) language. (a) clear and concise (b) vague and puzzling (c) humorous (d) sarcastic.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of a world-famous communist leader.

1. Capital of Iowa.

2. Red China has world's second largest _____.

3. She founded the American Red Cross.

4. Our huge production of _____ would give us a great advantage over Red China in the event of war.

5. Americans own about three fourths of all the world's _____.

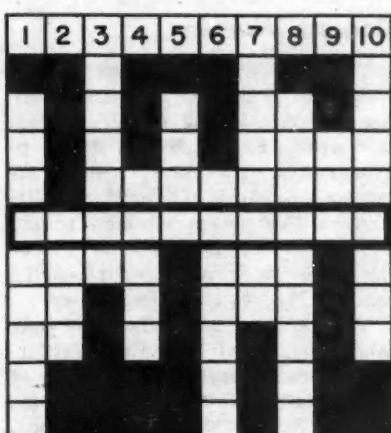
6. Red China's capital.

7. Big river in China.

8. Premier and Foreign Minister of Red China.

9. First part of name of city where Republicans will hold their 1956 national convention.

10. China's biggest city.



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Australia. VERTICAL: 1. Zealand; 2. rubber; 3. Khrushchev; 4. Molotov; 5. Karachi; 6. Bulganin; 7. Dulles; 8. Thailand; 9. Manila.



THE CONTEST WINNERS (left to right): Catherine Esther Styles of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dwight David Walker of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Judy Abramson of Yuba City, California; and Avron Maletzky of Schenectady, New York.

The Meaning of True Democracy

Four High School Students, Winners in Nation-Wide Essay Competition, Present Their Views on Basic Principles That Underlie Free Government

(Here are portions of the prize-winning scripts, prepared by high school students, in this year's "Voice of Democracy" contest. The competition was sponsored by the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers' Association, and the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. For information about the contest see note on page 4.)

I SPEAK for democracy! Why? Because I am an American enjoying to the fullest the benefits of democracy. The greatness of this democracy is not to be found in the waters, the mines, the fields, or the mills, but must be sought in the hearts and minds of the people.

None of us could describe it in the same terms, yet each senses its power, its importance, and the conviction that it must be preserved at all costs. For want of better expression, let us call it the "American way of life."

This way of life can mean different things to different people. It is like a gigantic tree with many branches extending in all directions. The tree, its branches, and its fruit give comfort and support to the weak and strength to the small. The tree, like democracy, has fought for survival through the ages, and shows scars resulting from this treatment.

There is no country in the world, nor any human being, who, in its span of duration, has not been affected by the many facets of democracy. Wars have been fought for it. Laws have been made for it. Schools are founded upon it. Rights have been declared for it. In order to benefit the people, it must be guarded and protected by all who wish to share in it. Without help and support, democracy—as the tree—would die.

Our Union of States and nation of people can work together to create and to achieve—to make this democracy stronger, constant, and ever enduring. May God will it so.

—By JUDY ABRAMSON,
Yuba City, California

I SPEAK for democracy—a force that means life, liberty, and freedom for millions of human beings—a force that elevates the dignity of man toward the divine—but a force that defies definition.

Scores of interpretations do not embrace the meaning of democracy. Perhaps the key is that true democracy is a quality toward which one strives, rather than a concrete object which

one may wish to enclose in a glass case.

The theme of democracy goes back much farther historically than the great documents of the American, French, and English revolutions. The idea goes back to the Hebrews with their theories of divine justice; to the early Christians with their ideal of brotherhood; to the Romans with their stress on equality and justice. Those who feel that democracy is young, and thus is an unstable force, forget what a long history it has.

We must, if our democracy is to succeed, realize that no one can stand alone. True, society recognizes a person as an individual with his individual liberties and freedoms, but only if the person recognizes society as a brotherhood of individuals. To be part of a democracy, one must fight the natural tendency to demand equality and freedom for oneself, and not for others.

Democracy is a powerful force. It represents a gigantic struggle towards some unattainable goal. But even if this struggle never succeeds entirely, out of it can come the courage and the faith that will maintain democracy as a dynamic force for eternity.

—By AVRON JOSEPH MALETZKY,
Schenectady, New York

AM not an American, and yet I, too, speak for democracy.

Not much over a hundred years ago, the race that founded America began to found another nation. Today we call that nation New Zealand (my homeland). It is a young country, a virile and growing country. The people who live there are a people who love freedom.

I have seen something of America. I have watched the crowds in the streets at night, seen the advertisement signs flashing on the saw-edge of the horizon saying: "Buy my product; no, buy mine; mine is finer yet." I have seen, back home in the early morning, the man with his horse and his dogs, driving sheep. I remember the jostle and pattering rush of the delicate forefeet, and the sharp barking of the dogs. I remember this, and I know that those crowds with their faces colored by the glow of the advertisements, and that man out early with his flock, although they are 7,000 miles apart, are people with the same ideals and beliefs.

You people of America do not stand alone. Democracy extends further than America. Two thousand years ago the Christian doctrine proclaimed the equality of man. Belief in the

equality of man means acceptance of all races, all creeds. Belief in democracy means belief in the equality of man.

Not as an American, not as a New Zealander, but as a free citizen of the world in which I have faith, I am speaking to you now. I am not remembering that you are American and I am British. I am not remembering that our voices are different, and our manners, and the cut of our clothes. I only remember that, together, we speak for democracy.

—By CATHERINE ESTHER STYLES,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

M Y name is democracy. I am the beacon of hope in a troubled world. I can be found in an abandoned foxhole in Korea; in the Senate of the United States, and at a meeting of the PTA. I am present when you spend a quiet evening at home with your family, and when you go to church on Sunday.

I cannot tell you my exact age. First, I was a hope in the hearts of men who sought a new way of life, free from the oppression of a tyrannical ruler. These men with their hope brought me with them to found a new land. The land was called America. It is my land—the land of democracy.

The torment and anguish which my fathers endured for me left its permanent mark on my history. Guns roared, armies battled, and fires raged through my land, taking an immense toll of blood and human life. But I lived, bringing to my people a richer and fuller life.

However, there continued to be threats to my security. My history has been blackened by a succession of wars, and I have learned through experience. I have grown from my infancy to take my rightful place as leader of a troubled world. I have seen and assumed my duties. May I remind you of a few of my accomplishments?—the Marshall Plan, food trains, the Point-4 program, the Berlin airlift, and military aid to Greece.

What of my future? It has been said that my greatest enemy is indifference. Neglect of their duties and obligations led my people into the Second World War. Citizens of America, don't let this happen again! Speak, act, and think democracy. Live it. Breathe it. Defend it and believe in it! Above all, do not take it for granted.

—By DWIGHT DAVID WALKER,
Oskaloosa, Iowa

The Story of the Week

Red China's Rulers

Two of the men who boss the activities of Red China's teeming population are Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai. Mao heads the powerful People's Council in Red China. Chou is premier and foreign minister of the communist regime.

Mao Tse-tung decided early in life that communism was needed to overcome his country's poverty and political instability. In the early 1920's, he helped organize the Chinese communist party. At the same time, he began a vigorous campaign to bring poor farmers and jobless city dwellers into a revolutionary army.

The communist forces grew in size and power until, after World War II, Mao was able to overthrow China's Nationalist government. He then set



Mao Tse-tung
EASTFOTO



Chou En-lai
EASTFOTO

up a communist state, and the 62-year-old Red leader has ruled it with an iron hand ever since.

Chou En-lai, the son of impoverished but well-educated Chinese parents, was an outstanding college student in his youth. He studied in China, Japan, France, Germany, and other countries. He turned to communism largely because he felt China's past governments were responsible for his parents' poverty.

Chou organized revolutionary groups in China during the 1920's and 1930's. He led Red troops which eventually gained the upper hand in his country. His rewards for helping achieve a communist victory in China were the positions of premier and foreign minister of the Red regime.

"Operation Teapot"

Uncle Sam began new tests of atomic weapons at special proving grounds in southern Nevada earlier this month. The current tests are to end in April with "Operation Teapot." That will be a trial nuclear explosion to test how well typical American homes and various types of shelters will stand up under an atomic blast.

Some scientists fear that continued atomic tests might poison our atmosphere and endanger lives. The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission believes there is no such danger at the present time. It contends that tests must be continued, if we are to improve our atomic weapons and our defenses against such weapons, until the threat of war is eliminated.

Meanwhile, the AEC warns us that a single hydrogen bomb explosion, under certain weather conditions, could destroy life in an area up to 40 miles wide and about 220 miles long. In other words, an H-bomb blast near our nation's capital could cause deaths and injuries as far away as New York City and its nearby communities! Radioactive poison, the AEC points

out, would be the chief cause of death outside of the immediate blast site of the H-bomb.

The AEC agrees with civil defense officials who say people should be evacuated from cities if there is time to do so in the face of an impending air attack. Defense leaders also advise cities to build special shelters now in case there isn't time to get their inhabitants to safety if an attack should come.

In addition, each individual, according to civil defense officials, should remember these rules in case of an air attack:

1. Take cover immediately in a cellar or other nearby shelter.
2. Cover all exposed skin with clothing or other available material.
3. Remain in your shelter until an authorized person tells you it is safe to leave.
4. If possible, keep your radio turned on for instructions.
5. Don't eat food or drink water which has not been protected from radioactive poisoning.

The Belgian Congo

Business is booming in the Belgian Congo. Leopoldville, capital of the Belgian colony in Africa, is a gleaming modern city of about 300,000 people and growing bigger every day. Throughout the Congo, new roads, factories, and homes appear almost as if by magic.

Less than 50 years ago, before Belgium took over the African land in 1908, life in the Congo was much different from what it is today. At that time, the native people were fighting a losing battle against poverty and disease. They were terrorized by witch doctors and the brutal customs of certain African tribes. They had no written language and few, if any, schools.

Today, more and more of the colony's 12 million people are learning to read and write. About half of the school-age children attend classes.

Belgium is doing a great deal to raise health and living standards. The working day is limited to 8 hours. Jobholders are given free medical care and housing.

The Belgian Congo, about a third the size of the United States, is a



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (left to right): General Nathan Twining, Air Force; General Matthew Ridgway, Army; Admiral Arthur Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; and Admiral Robert Carney, Chief of Naval Operations.

rich storehouse of mineral wealth. It produces about half of the uranium used by the free nations. The Congo also has large quantities of radium, cobalt (needed in the production of jet engines), industrial diamonds, copper, and tin. Uncle Sam is the African land's best customer for these valuable minerals.

Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) are the nation's top military officers. As a group, they advise the President on military matters. In addition to a chairman, the group is made up of the military chiefs of each branch of our armed forces.

Admiral Arthur Radford, 59, is JCS chairman. He devotes his full time to long-range military planning. Born in Chicago, Radford graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1916. He commanded carrier forces in the Pacific during World War II. Radford strongly advocates a "tough" policy toward Red China. He believes that Red aggression can be stopped only by a show of strength on our part.

General Nathan Twining, 57, speaks

for the Air Force at JCS meetings. Trained at West Point for the infantry, he later changed to the Air Force. Twining served in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. He usually sees eye to eye with Radford on military policies in the Far East.

General Matthew Ridgway, nearly 60, is Army Chief of Staff. The son of a colonel, Ridgway was born on an Army post. A West Point graduate, he won fame in World War II for his brilliant airborne attacks on the enemy. He commanded our troops during part of the fighting in Korea, and later took General Eisenhower's place as top commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Europe. Ridgway has opposed Radford's "get tough" policy in the Far East, saying that it could lead to a big war.

Admiral Robert Carney, 59, heads the nation's sea forces. Like Radford, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1916. Carney fought in a number of Pacific campaigns during World War II. Before that conflict began, he helped design small naval vessels. Now, Admiral Carney warns that many of our World War II ships are becoming out of date. He is pushing work on new aircraft carriers and also on atomic submarines.

Contest Winners

The four winners of the 1954-55 Voice of Democracy Contest were honor guests in the nation's capital last week. Each had won a trip to Washington, D. C., along with an excursion to historic Williamsburg, Virginia; a \$500 college scholarship; and a radio or television set for his or her 5-minute broadcast script on the subject "I Speak for Democracy."

The four national winners are Judy Abramson, 17, of Yuba City, California; Avron Joseph Maletsky, 16, of Schenectady, New York; Catherine Esther Styles, 18, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Dwight David Walker, 17, of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The contest is sponsored annually by the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the



VICE PRESIDENT NIXON inspecting a sugar plantation in Cuba. Nixon has been visiting a number of Latin American nations.

Electronics-Radio-Television Manufacturers' Association.

The winning scripts—condensed, we regret, because of space limitations—are printed on page 3.

Hoover Proposals

Congress is going over some suggestions on how to reduce the cost of running our government and to improve the operating efficiency of federal agencies. These proposals were made by a bi-partisan study group under the chairmanship of former Republican President Herbert Hoover.

The Hoover Commission, as this group is called, was organized in 1953. It will continue to make suggestions for changes in our government setup from time to time until next May 31. Here are some recommendations made to Congress by the Hoover group:

1. A "senior Civil Service" group of from 1,500 to 3,000 highly skilled persons should be set up. Members of this "pool" of workers could be called upon to handle high-level jobs as their services are needed throughout the government.

2. A clear line should be drawn between government workers who are political appointees and make policies, and those who are engaged in the duty of putting policies into effect. All the members of this latter group should be employed on the basis of competitive examinations.

3. Salaries of top government personnel ought to be increased to attractable persons to responsible positions.

4. A number of government jobs, including overseas posts which require specialized skills, should be filled by competitive examinations instead of by political appointment.

Against Tyranny

You can join in the fight against communist tyranny by supporting Radio Free Europe (RFE). Sponsored by a group of Americans, RFE is now campaigning for funds to continue its work of presenting the dem-

ocratic case to communist-controlled lands. Contributions should be sent to Radio Free Europe, in care of your local post office.

RFE has a network of 29 powerful transmitters and relay stations located in West Germany and Portugal. Unlike our Voice of America, Radio Free Europe is not an official government agency. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of millions of Americans. Whereas the Voice of America beams its broadcasts around the globe, RFE concentrates all its efforts on five Soviet satellite countries—Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Radio Free Europe beams news and messages of hope to the people living in these satellite lands. Men and women who have escaped across the Iron Curtain speak to their own people over the RFE network.

GI Bill of Rights

Veterans of World War II and those of the Korean war received substantial benefits from Uncle Sam under the GI Bill of Rights. This law was first passed in 1944 and later renewed for Korean war GI's.

In general, GI Bill benefits included (1) government-backed loans for the purchase of homes, farms, and businesses; (2) free schooling; (3) financial assistance if unemployed; (4) mustering out pay; and (5) help in obtaining a job after leaving the service.

The extent of educational benefits depended upon how long a person was in uniform. He was entitled to receive 1½ days of free schooling for each day he was in the armed forces, up to a maximum of 36 months.

Shortly after the first of this year, President Eisenhower, in the effort to reduce government expenses, issued the following order: Those entering the service after January 31 would receive no benefits under the GI Bill of Rights. GI's already in the armed forces would be given what was coming to them up to January 31, but



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON
THE MAJOR BASEBALL CLUBS are getting spring training in the two warm-weather states shown on the above maps

they could accumulate no more benefits after that time. For example, if a young man entered the service on January 15, he could later receive only 1½ days of free schooling for each remaining day he served during the month of January, regardless of how long he remained in uniform after that time.

Following Eisenhower's action, Congress decided that those who entered the service not later than January 31 should continue to receive all the benefits contained in the GI Bill of Rights. Under the congressional plan, if you had joined the armed forces on or before January 31, you could continue to accumulate benefits until you returned to civilian life. But Congress went along with the President's plan to deny special GI benefits to all those entering the service *after the end of January*.

As matters now stand, youths who went into uniform in January or before will receive full advantage of the GI Bill of Rights. Those entering the service after that time will receive none.

A number of congressmen and others feel this is unfair to persons entering the armed forces after January 31. These lawmakers contend that all draftees should receive the same treatment and privileges. It is their feeling that special benefits should not be eliminated until after the drafting of young men is no longer necessary and comes to an end.

Whether further changes will be made remains to be seen.

SPORTS

TOMORROW—March 1—baseball's spring-training season gets under way. Until the middle of April, the big league players will be limbering up, preparing for the 1955 season.

Spring training affords the athletes an opportunity to get their arms in shape and sharpen their batting eyes after the winter's layoff. It gives managers a chance to size up new players and figure out the strongest line-ups.

Thirteen big-league teams are training in Florida, while the remaining three are going through their drills in Arizona. One training oddity finds the Brooklyn Dodgers with two camps. They will prepare at Vero Beach until March 9 and after that date will make Miami their base.

Though Florida has the most training camps, the two big league champions of 1954—the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians—will both train in Arizona. They will meet in 18 exhibition games.

*
The world amateur hockey championship will be decided this week in Germany. Teams from nine countries—including the United States—are taking part in the international competition.

Defending champion is the team representing Soviet Russia. Other teams which are rated high include those from Canada, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and West Germany. Canada has won the championship 14 out of 20 times it has been held, but lost to Russia last year.

Corrections

In a recent issue of this paper, Fontaine Fox, the great American cartoonist, was mistakenly referred to as "the late Fontaine Fox." We are happy to say that Mr. Fox is very much alive, and, at 70, has only recently retired after a long and successful cartooning career. We sincerely regret this error.

This paper also recently stated that it cost the government \$700,000,000 a day to store the surplus farm products which it possesses. The figure should have been \$700,000 a day.

1956 Conventions

City officials of San Francisco and Chicago are already making preparations for the 1956 political conventions. At that time, the Republicans and the Democrats will meet to choose candidates for President and Vice President.

The GOP plans to meet in San Francisco on August 20 to choose its standard-bearers. Democrats expect to hold their nominating convention in Chicago late in July or early in August of next year.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's articles will deal with: (1) Peacetime uses of atomic energy. (2) French North Africa.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Teacher: Tell me the truth, now, who did your homework?

Freddie: Dad.

Teacher: All alone?

Freddie: No, I helped him.

*

Judge: Guilty! I'll give you ten days or twenty dollars.

Prisoner: I'll take the twenty dollars.



"Suppose you leave it here with us for a couple of days, Mr. Fowler, while you go out and hunt up all the money you can."

American Observer: Published weekly throughout the year (except during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays, and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by Civic Education Service, Inc., 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Subscription price, single copy 5¢ a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1.20 a school year or 60 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3½ cents a week. Entered as second-class matter September 15, 1931, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Editorial Board: Francis L. Bacon, Harold G. Moulton, David S. Muzzey, Walter E. Myer, *Editor-in-Chief*; Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer; Managing Editor, Clay Coss; Executive Editor, J. Hubert Anderson; Associate Editors, Anton A. Berle, Marvil Collins, Hazel L. Eldridge, Thomas F. Hawkins, Barbara Hurlbutt, Thomas K. Myer, Robert E. Schweitz, William J. Shorrock, Howard O. Sweet, John W. Tottle, Jr.; Illustrator, Julian E. Caraballo; Art Editor, Kermit Johnson; Associate Artist, Joan Craig.



THE MAINLAND OF CHINA and nearby areas, including Formosa and other islands which the Chinese Reds want to control. Among the latter are Quemoy, Matsu, Nanchi, and the Pescadores. Tachen has already been taken. Ningpo, on the mainland, is the site of new communist airfields.

In Red China

(Continued from page 1)

people (3½ times as many as there are in the United States), the greatest population of any nation.

"With such deficiencies, it is plain that Red China could not wage a successful war on the United States. Surely her leaders are aware of these weaknesses. The warlike statements they're making are probably meant mainly to impress Asian peoples."

Other observers feel that we must not ignore the possibility that Red China might start a war, even though she is a weak nation in many respects. They say:

"We must realize that China's leaders are unpredictable, and that they have been overcome with a sense of power since they took over China's mainland. They are riding high these days, and it could well be that the elation they feel over their successes in recent years might cause them to overestimate their own strength and underestimate the strength of the United States. This mistaken feeling could cause them to start a war which might develop into a global conflict."

"We must remember, too, that Red China is allied to the Soviet Union through a mutual assistance pact. Russia could supply China with planes, tanks, and guns, and would probably come to her aid with Soviet troops. The promise of Russian support might cause Red China's leaders to strike even though their country's economy is weak. Certainly we must be ready for such a possibility."

Whatever communist China's present intentions may—or may not—be, there is general agreement that this Far Eastern land represents a serious, long-range threat to U. S. inter-

ests in the Pacific. The Red leaders are determined to build a powerful, modern state along communist lines, and they are bitterly hostile to the United States. We must closely watch what is going on there.

Profound changes are taking place in China today. Since the Reds drove Chiang Kai-shek and his followers to the island of Formosa late in 1949, they have been busily strengthening their hold on the mainland. They are rebuilding the nation in the image of the Soviet Union. Here is how certain areas of Chinese life are being changed:

Industry. A major aim of the Red Chinese leaders is to industrialize their country, hitherto mainly a farming land. Manpower and money are being poured into the development of heavy industry—electric power, iron and steel making, metal working, and

chemical production. The northern province of Manchuria is one big industrial center, and many steel mills are being built in this section of the country.

Progress is not so fast, though, as the Chinese wish. Industrial goals have had to be revised downward several times. Behind the lagging output are poor planning, a lack of trained machine operators, and shortages of equipment. Most of the machinery is coming from Russia, but the latter has been slow in supplying material.

If plans go according to schedule—which is unlikely—by 1959 China will be turning out yearly 6 million tons of steel, 64 million tons of coal, and 13½ billion kilowatt hours of electric power. How low even these goals are may be seen by the fact that in 1953 the United States turned out 112 million tons of steel, 482 million tons of

coal, and 442 billion kilowatt hours of electric power.

Whether China has the resources to become a major industrial nation is a big question. She has coal and iron, and lesser amounts of oil and copper. An intensive search is being made for further supplies of minerals. If they cannot be found, China may never become a top-flight industrial power.

Farming. More than 80 per cent of the Chinese people make a living off the land. When the Reds took over, they seized estates of 10 acres or more and parceled out the land to those who had one half acre or less. This step was meant to win the support of millions of small farmers.

It appears now, though, that the farmers will not hold their land long. The government is working toward the goal of Soviet-type collective farming. All farmers may eventually work directly for the government on big farms, formed from many small ones.

Red leaders think they can boost crop production through collective farms. They are worried because food crops have been dropping off. Big floods last year ruined millions of acres of farm land. China needs every bit of food that can be raised, or famine will result.

The government is proceeding cautiously toward its goal of collective farming, but resistance is certain to be met. There is no doubt that most farmers would prefer to own their land and cultivate it for themselves. Today they not only have to pay heavy taxes but must sell their crops to the government at a low price. What the situation boils down to is this: it is the farmers, more than any other group, who are paying for China's industrial program. One result is that many young people are leaving the farming areas and going to work in the factories.



TYPICAL MEMBERS of China's huge population of more than 570 million

Whether one works in a factory or on a farm, life is drab and difficult. A factory worker may earn as much as five or six dollars a week, while a farm worker is fortunate to make one third of that. For either group, life is a constant scramble to get enough to eat.

Education. The government is embarked on a big drive to teach more people to read and write. At present, only about one third of the population can do so. In higher education, there is much emphasis today on engineers and technicians needed in the industrial program.

From the time a child first goes to school, he hears a steady din of propaganda, glorifying the communist government and its leaders, and attacking the western nations, especially the United States. This program seems to be having effect, for support of the present regime appears to be strong among young people. How many older people are taken in by the propaganda, it is difficult to say. Few, if any, dare to speak up against it.

Armed forces. Another major aim of the Red government is to make China a military power. The attempt is being made to modernize the armed forces and equip them with the latest weapons. A new corps of young, educated officers is being formed. Compulsory military service throughout the country has recently replaced the old haphazard system of recruiting.

With some 2½ million men, China's army is the second largest in the world (after the Soviet Union). The air force has about 2,000 planes, many of them MIG fighters from Russia. The navy is weak, but the Reds intend to build up that branch of the armed forces, too. If present plans are carried out, China's military might will continue to be a powerful factor in Asian affairs.

Politics. Red China claims to be a "people's democratic state." Actually it is a dictatorship ruled through the communist party. At the top is Mao Tse-tung and his high-level assistants. Below them are about 6 million party members. Many of them are former soldiers in Mao's army, and others are young people who have wholeheartedly adopted communism.

Red China is a police state in which the wishes of the ruling group are carried out to the letter—with bloodshed, if necessary. Thousands of village landlords and large landowners were killed soon after the Reds came

into power. Steps against the city merchants have also been ruthless.

The communists aim to put all business under government ownership in time. The businessmen either have to go along with the government or risk death or imprisonment. Estimates of the number of Chinese killed or imprisoned since the communists seized power run as high as 15 million.

During the past year, Red leaders strengthened their control throughout the nation. National elections were held, but there were no opposition parties represented. The ruling group put loyal communists in every political office throughout the land.

What do all these developments that are taking place in China mean for the United States? Can the communists be ousted from power?

Undoubtedly millions of Chinese are fed up with Red rule, but they are not unified and they dare not speak out. The day may come in the future when effective opposition will emerge, but most observers see little evidence of it now.

Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa is the only anti-communist leader who is widely known among the Chinese. His government's prestige was badly hurt by widespread corruption among some of his officials at the time he was in power on China's mainland. After a taste of communist rule, though, many Chinese would probably now be glad to see him come back, but his chances of doing so appear to be slim at this time.

Certain people feel that there may eventually be a falling-out between Russia and China. This, they say, could create conditions in China that might allow anti-communist groups to take over the government. Nevertheless, they admit that such a development seems unlikely for a long time.

Meanwhile, our best plan seems to be to keep our armed forces in the Far Pacific area alert and strong enough to resist any attack by the Reds. At the same time, we must continue to explore every possibility of reducing tension in that part of the world through United Nations action and in other ways.

Though the situation is discouraging today, it may be that a period of watchful waiting and holding our ground will make the Reds see we are not going to be bluffed into letting them have their own way. That may be the first step toward bringing about a more peaceful atmosphere in the Far Pacific.



WORKMEN building an airfield for use by Red Chinese defense forces. Since she has little machinery, China depends mostly on backbreaking toil of human beings for heavy work that needs to be done.



"SMOKE SIGNAL" is a movie about soldiers and Indians in the far west

Radio-TV-Movies

A FRONTIER war between the Ute Indians and the U. S. cavalry is the background for a new western movie, "Smoke Signal." When the action starts, a cavalry outpost on the Colorado River is under Indian attack. Forced to retreat, the handful of survivors in the fort takes to the river in two boats.

Open hostility breaks out between the leader of the party and a young discredited officer. The latter is being held for court martial for having joined the Utes earlier in protest of the cruel way they had been treated. The party has to fight off the Indians and cope with treacherous river currents. How the group reaches safety makes an exciting story.

As the captain awaiting court martial, Dana Andrews plays the leading role. His bitter foe is played by Rex Reason. Co-starring with Andrews is Piper Laurie, the only woman in the picture. "Smoke Signal" was filmed in technicolor in the Grand Canyon.

Newscaster Douglas Edwards is now on radio five evenings a week. On the air previously on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, he now broadcasts his concise, five-minute news presentation on Monday and Tuesday evenings as well.

Edwards is one of the country's busiest newscasters. In addition to his evening radio program, he broadcasts during the day and is seen on television Monday through Friday. He has been newscasting since the age of 15, and during World War II reported on the air from major cities in Europe.

"Douglas Edwards with the News You Need to Know" is heard on radio from 8:25 to 8:30 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday. Edwards beams another broadcast to the Pacific coast from 8:00 to 8:05 p.m. (PST). His TV program, "Douglas Edwards and the News," is seen on the same evenings from 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. (EST) over CBS stations.

Our Readers Say—

I believe we ought to encourage Chiang Kai-shek to invade Red China. Such a move would show all victims of communism that they are not forgotten and that we are willing to help free them from slavery. I believe that China's people would flock to Chiang's support if he launched an attack on the Reds.

PAT GRAHAM,
La Mesa, California

If we hope to see our nation continue to advance socially and economically, we must put more emphasis on helping our schools. Any money that we invest in our educational system will be repaid many times over by building a stronger America. One step we should take immediately is to boost teachers' salaries in order to encourage more qualified young people to take up this highly important career.

NANCY NEWCOMER,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

No, I don't think we should let Chiang's forces invade the mainland of China. Such a step would undoubtedly involve us in a big war. Furthermore, I believe that the Nationalist forces would be quickly smashed by the communists if Chiang attempted an invasion of Red China. Then, even Formosa might be lost to our side.

JACK RYAN,
Underwood, Iowa

The leadership of our nation will some day be in the hands of today's youth. Many of those who will rise to prominent places in public life are in college now. These students should be given a free opportunity to explore different ideas, including the question of whether or not we should recognize the regime of Red China.

RAYMOND CARBULLIDO,
Tai, Guam

I believe our servicemen should continue to receive the benefits granted under the former GI Bill of Rights. Persons who sacrifice two or more years of their lives to serve their country ought to receive help in getting a new start after they leave the armed forces.

MARILYN TESLER,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

I am all for shorter Presidential election campaigns. Voters get tired of hearing the same slogans and speeches over and over again. Also, the cost of lengthy campaigns is much too high.

PATSYLYN STOUT,
Knoxville, Tennessee

A program for universal military training is a good thing. I believe that all physically fit boys of draft age should take such training. Boys 18 and 19 years of age have few responsibilities to tie them down, and military training may help them prepare for the life that lies ahead.

PAM KASEY,
Greensboro, North Carolina

We disagree with Philadelphia's curfew plan. We feel that it is almost impossible to curb crime by restricting young people. Youthful criminals will find a way to get around such restrictions. For the others, a curfew is a nuisance. Besides, persons over 17 years of age are as likely to get into trouble as those under that age.

LAVERNE HARMS and JUNE DERUYTER,
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Career for Tomorrow -- Bus-Truck Drivers

IT IS estimated that nearly 1 out of every 10 workers in the country today earns his living as a bus or truck driver. Some have their own trucks and are really independent businessmen. Others drive giant vehicles which transport tons of cargo over our highways. In addition, bus and truck drivers work for local transit systems, for the cross-country bus lines, and for retail stores, bakeries, milk dealers, and so on.

Your qualifications, if you choose this work, should include good eyesight and hearing. You must be alert and physically strong. In addition, you should have the mental and social makeup that will make you a safe driver on the highway. In other words, you should have an even temperament, a stable outlook, a good attitude toward regulations and rules, and a cooperative nature.

In addition to these basic requirements, the qualifications of a driver will depend upon the particular kind of bus or truck he is to handle. Bus drivers work closely with the public and should be patient and have a friendly nature. Drivers of milk, laundry, and bread trucks must combine salesmanship with their qualities as drivers. Men who drive the large cross-country trucks must be able to stand the strain of long hours on the road.

Your training, in most instances, can be obtained after you are hired for a particular job. You should, of course, know how to handle a car well and be familiar with traffic regulations before applying for a job in this

field. Do all you can to avoid traffic accidents, for few firms want to employ a driver whose record indicates he is careless. Some companies also require their men to know a little about automobile mechanics so they can take care of minor repair jobs while their trucks are on the road.

Men hired by trucking or bus companies are usually given stiff courses



FORD MOTOR CO.
TRUCK DRIVERS are well paid

in the rules of safety before they are allowed to take the wheel on their own. In addition, new drivers are taught their other duties—how to take tickets and make change and how to deal with typical situations that arise with passengers, if they are to operate buses; and how to handle transports details if they are to operate trucks.

Your salary will compare very favorably with those of workers in other fields. According to a recent nation-wide survey, most drivers earn between \$3,600 and \$8,000 a year.

You can advance to a responsible position in the trucking industry if you have the necessary qualifications. Many executives of trucking firms began their careers as drivers. In general, the best possibilities for promotion can be found with nationally known bus and truck companies.

Advantages and disadvantages offered by this work will depend largely upon your personality makeup. A man who likes to drive and be on the road finds few disadvantages in this field. He enjoys his duties, the good salaries, and the opportunities for advancement. Highway hazards and crowded streets are only minor annoyances to born drivers. Persons who don't have the required temperament, though, find that these annoyances far outweigh the advantages.

Further information can be obtained from nearby trucking and bus concerns. You will also be able to obtain data on the trucking industry as a whole from the American Trucking Associations, Inc., 1424 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Pronunciations

Anshan	ăñ'shăñ
Chiang Kai-shek	jyäng kí-shék
Chou En-lai	jó èn-li
Kaifeng	ki-fung
Liuchow	lî-oó'jó'
Mao Tse-tung	mou dzú-döng
Matsu	mát-soó
Nanchi	nán-ché
Ningpo	ning-pó
Quemoy	ké-moy'
Tientsin	tín-tsín
Vladivostok	vläd'i-vös-tök'

Historical Backgrounds -- The Red Cross

THE Red Cross starts its annual drive for funds to finance its many relief and welfare programs on March 1. The drive will last throughout the month.

The story of the great relief agency dates back to 1859. In that year Henry Dunant, a native of Switzerland, was traveling in what is today northern Italy. War broke out between Austria and France, and the bloody battle of Solferino took place. Visiting the battlefield almost immediately after the engagement, Dunant was horrified at the suffering of the 40,000 wounded who were left on the field to die.

Enlisting the inhabitants of neighboring villages to help him, Dunant organized what relief he could. Upon his return to Switzerland, he published a pamphlet describing the scene of horror. He wound up his pamphlet with this question: "Would it not be possible to organize in all civilized countries permanent societies of volunteers to help the wounded in time of war without regard to nationality?"

The pamphlet attracted a good deal of attention. Its publication led to a conference in 1863. Representatives of 16 nations attended. At the conference, the framework of the Red Cross was set up.

Plans were made then to organize groups of volunteers who would help the sick and wounded in time of war. Steps were also taken to see that all countries would protect medical personnel and the sick and wounded in battle areas. These two ideas were

embodied later in a statement known as the Geneva Convention, which today is accepted practically everywhere as a law binding nations which are engaged in armed conflict.

In 1869, Clara Barton, an American woman who had carried on much relief work during the Civil War, visited Switzerland and was much impressed with the Red Cross organization. Upon her return to the United States she worked for several years to persuade Congress to ratify the



CLARA BARTON, Red Cross pioneer in the United States, learned nursing when she was quite young

Geneva Convention and establish the American Red Cross.

Although the organization furnished some relief in the Spanish-American War, it was in World War I that the Red Cross really showed what it could do. The agency took care of refugees, supplied more than 20,000 nurses, helped in military hospitals, and aided

servicemen in many different ways at home and overseas.

During World War II, the record of the Red Cross was even more impressive than it had been in the first global conflict. It had thousands of workers overseas and supervised recreation clubs for servicemen in all parts of the world. It performed countless duties to lessen human suffering.

The peacetime activities of the Red Cross have been as outstanding as its record of war relief. The organization aids the victims of such disasters as hurricanes, floods, and fires.

One of the most important offshoots of the relief agency is the Junior Red Cross. Since the war, that organization has sent thousands of dollars' worth of supplies to children in war-devastated lands.

The Red Cross is seeking to raise \$5 million dollars in its current drive for funds. Give what you can.

Alaska Eskimos are serving in Uncle Sam's Army as scouts. They watch for trouble along the narrow strip of water between Alaska and Russian Siberia. They report on unusual activities of men, ships, and planes. The Eskimos—known for their scouting ability—go about their usual business of fishing, trapping, and hunting while serving as Army scouts.

A poll taken in London shows that the most popular given names in that city are John and Mary.

Study Guide

Streets and Highways

- How many motor vehicles do we now have in the United States? How many miles of public roads and streets?
- Compare our present number of vehicles with the number in 1945 and the estimate for 1965.
- About how many people in America hold jobs connected with highway transportation?
- Briefly describe the roles now played by federal, state, and local governments in highway construction and repair.
- Outline the highway improvement program which General Clay's advisory committee has recommended.
- What arguments are raised in opposition to this program?
- How do its supporters reply?

Discussion

- Do you or do you not think our country should start spending as heavily on highway construction and repair as the Clay committee recommends? Why or why not?
- If large-scale highway improvement is to be carried out, do you think the federal government should play a major financial part in it? Explain.

Communist China

- Why do many observers think that Red China will not risk war at this time?
- What different view is held by others?
- How is China's industrial program coming along?
- Describe the changes in farming that China's Red rulers have been bringing about.
- What steps are the Reds taking to make young people strong communists?
- Tell about changes that are taking place in the armed forces.
- Describe the government setup in Red China.
- What chance does there seem to be at this time that Red China's leaders will be overthrown?

Discussion

- On the basis of your present knowledge, do you think that Red China will risk war with the United States in order to take Formosa, or do you think her leaders are bluffing? Explain.
- What policy do you think our government should follow in order to reduce tension in the Far East? Why?

Miscellaneous

- Who are Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai?
- What is "Operation Teapot"? According to civil defense officials, what rules should we remember in case of an air attack?
- How does life in Africa's Congo today differ from that of some 50 years ago?
- Tell something about the Voice of Democracy Contest.
- Who are the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? What are the duties of this group?
- In what way did Congress change the President's plans regarding the GI Bill of Rights? How do you feel about this question?

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

- (a) the number of legislators who must be present at voting time; 2. (c) denied that he had; 3. (c) the accuser; 4. (a) shrewd judgment; 5. (d) left no doubt as to its meaning; 6. (b) it is very similar; 7. (b) vague and puzzling.